

Welcome to the first edition of the "Virginia Green Gazette"!

We will be sending it out each month with program news, highlights from members, useful websites and other resources, and information about recent or upcoming VG events.

We always welcome your input, so send along your suggestions and ideas to

viriniagreen@deq.virginia.org.

Governor Kaine Declares April Green Travel Month!

With Virginia marking the 40th anniversary of the "Virginia is for Lovers" marketing campaign and people the world over looking forward to Earth Day 2009, **Governor Timothy M. Kaine recently declared April as "Virginia Green Travel Month."** As part of Virginia Green Travel Month, the state tourism office will highlight green travel packages, green get-aways and spotlight *Virginia Green* travel options. The statewide businesses that are working to reduce their environmental impact."

The Governor also challenged the Virginia tourism industry to recruit 40 new Virginia Green members. Please help us reach that goal by recruiting additional tourism businesses in your area! For more information on the Governor's announcement, click [here](#).



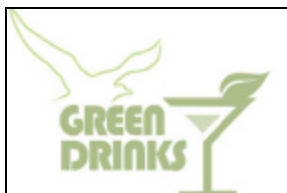
DEQ Releases Food Waste Composting Studies

Are you thinking about composting? DEQ's recycling program recently completed two food waste characterization studies under a grant from EPA that may be of interest to Virginia Green members: one for a [conference food service operation](#) and one for a [college dining facility](#). Click on the links to read the reports.

Earth Day Events for the Hospitality Industry in Virginia Beach Planned



What are you doing to celebrate Earth Day (April 22)? The Virginia Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau is sponsoring "It's Easy to be Green in the Virginia Beach Hospitality Industry—Your One Stop Shop to Become a Virginia Green Certified Business" from 2-4 pm at the Convention Center. Other event sponsors are the Virginia Beach Hotel Motel Association and the Virginia Beach Restaurant Association, part of the G.R.E.E.N. Committee of the Virginia Beach Resort Advisory Commission. For more information on the City's greening tourism efforts go to www.viriniabeachgreen.com; for additional information on the event, email Pam Lingle at plingle@vbgov.com.



Virginia Beach is also participating in the "Green Drinks for the Bay" event taking place on Earth Day throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Green Drinks chapters throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed will come together to stage a same-day gathering in their respective cities, attempting to top the world attendance record of 1,800 set in Melbourne, Australia, and to rally support for action to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay. For more information on all of the "Green Drinks for the Bay" events, go to www.greendrinksforthebay.org.

Important Virginia Green Websites:

www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/viriniagreen: The Department of Environmental Quality's site which currently includes applications and member profiles.

www.virginia.org/green: The Virginia is for Lovers Virginia Green page, which includes trip ideas, upcoming events and other green travel information for visitors.

Virginia Green is a voluntary self-certification program for the Commonwealth's hospitality and tourism industry intended to reduce the industry's environmental footprint while promoting its economic sustainability. It operates as a partnership between the Virginia Tourism Corporation, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Virginia Hospitality and Travel Association. To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#), or call 804-698-4172.